

**Floor Statement of Congressman Bob Goodlatte on the Introduction of the
“Tax Code Termination Act”
January 17, 2007**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce the “Tax Code Termination Act”.

This bi-partisan legislation, which I introduced with my colleague Collin Peterson of Minnesota, and 65 bi-partisan cosponsors, will accomplish two goals. It will abolish the Internal Revenue Code by December 31, 2010, and call on Congress to approve a new Federal tax system by July of the same year.

The fact is our current tax system has spiraled out of control. At a time when Americans devote a total of 7 billion hours each year to comply with the tax code, we need tax simplification. Today’s tax code is unfair, discourages savings and investment, and is impossibly complex. The problem is Congress won’t act on fundamental tax reform unless it is forced to do so. The Tax Code Termination Act will force Congress to finally debate and address fundamental tax reform.

Once the Tax Code Termination Act becomes law, today's oppressive tax code would survive for only four more years, at which time it would expire and be replaced with a new tax code that will be determined by Congress, the President, and the American people. The Tax Code Termination Act will allow us, as a nation, to collectively decide what the new tax system should look like. Having a date-certain to end the current tax code will force the issue to the top of the national agenda, where it will remain until Congress and the President finish writing the new tax law.

The tax code is hopelessly broken and abolishing it is the necessary first step to debating, designing, and adopting a new tax system. Although many questions remain about the best way to reform our tax system, I am certain that if Congress is forced to address the issue we can create a tax code that is simpler, fairer, and better for our economy than the one we are forced to comply with today.

Whichever tax system is adopted, the key ingredients should be: a low rate for all Americans; tax relief for working people; protection of the rights of taxpayers and reduction in tax collection abuses; promotion of savings and investment; and encouragement of economic growth and job creation. Taxes may be unavoidable but they don't have to be unfair and overcomplicated.

Just like other programs that require reauthorization, the tax code must be reviewed to examine whether it is fulfilling its intended purpose and then Congress must make what changes are necessary.

America's future depends on overcoming the handicap of the current tax code. There is a widespread consensus that the current system is broken, and keeping it is not in America’s best interest. I urge each of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

